

MARVEL

3

LGY#729

DONNY CATES

NIC KLEIN

MATT WILSON

TOR



THOR

THOR RECENTLY BECAME THE ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD, BUT HE BARELY HAD TIME TO SETTLE INTO HIS NEW ROLE AS KING BEFORE A WOUNDED GALACTUS CRASHED INTO THE GOLDEN REALM WITH A TERRIBLE WARNING:

THE BLACK WINTER — THE STAR PLAGUE THAT DESTROYED GALACTUS' ORIGINAL UNIVERSE — IS NOW COMING TO DESTROY THIS UNIVERSE.

TO PREVENT IT FROM DOING SO, GALACTUS NEEDS TO CONSUME FIVE PLANETS WITH RARE AND UNIQUE ENERGIES THAT WILL AUGMENT HIS POWER.

THOR INSISTED ON GOING WITH GALACTUS TO SEE THE DENIZENS OF THESE WORLDS TO SAFETY FIRST. SO GALACTUS TRANSFORMED THOR INTO HIS NEW HERALD — THE HERALD OF THUNDER.

THEY STARTED WITH THE PLANET CLYPSE. THOR MANAGED TO SAVE THE INHABITANTS BUT WAS UNABLE TO PREVENT GALACTUS FROM WRECKING THE PLANET AS HE ABSORBED ITS POWER. THEIR RESULTING BATTLE WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER HAMMER...AND ITS FURIOUS KORBINITE BEARER.

BETA RAY BILL HAS TRACKED GALACTUS AND THOR THROUGH THE STARS. AND IT IS NOT A HAPPY REUNION.

“THE DEVOURER KING” PART THREE “STORM WAR”

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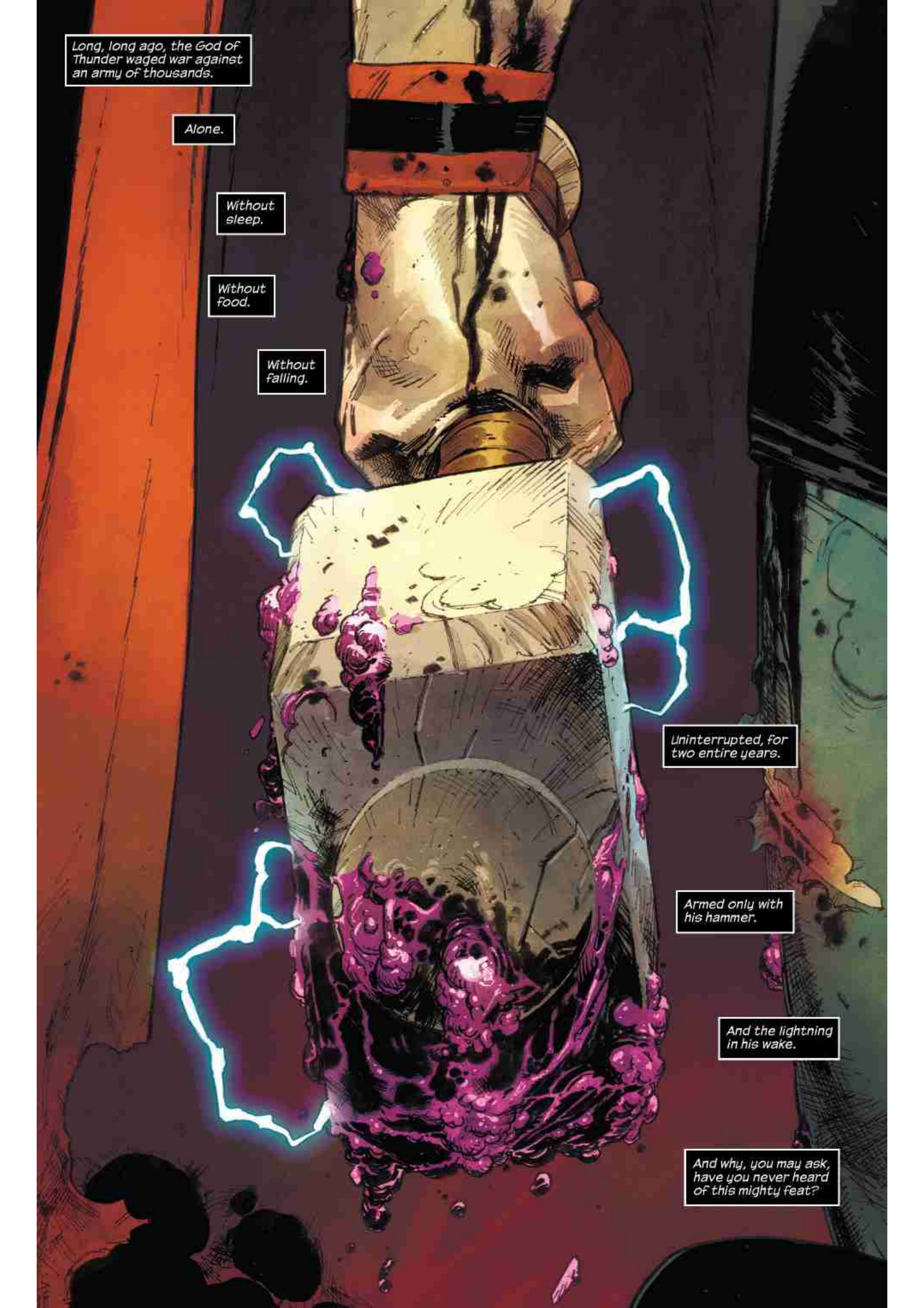
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THOR CREATED BY SCAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY



Long, long ago, the God of Thunder waged war against an army of thousands.

Alone.

Without sleep.

Without food.

Without falling.

Uninterrupted, for two entire years.

Armed only with his hammer.

And the lightning in his wake.

And why, you may ask, have you never heard of this mighty feat?



It is because Thor has forgotten it.

In fact, if he is reminded of the battle at all, the God of Thunder could not tell you who the adversaries were.

Or what the war was about...or even the name of the battle lands themselves.

For in the mind of an undying and ageless god, what is two years of raging war but a fraction of a second?

A decade may be remembered as a minute. A hundred years as an hour. If the hour be worthy.

That is to say, it is impossible to know the true legends of Thor.

Of the battles he has won. Of the foes he has vanquished.

Of the countless bodies of the wicked that lay unburied in his name.

Because for one such as the newly crowned king of Asgard...

...in time, they will all be forgotten.

Lost, in the ocean of his immortal mind.







The broken pieces of the planet Cypse explode on its small, uninhabited moon with the power of a thousand suns.

Hurricanes of fire and sand-turned-glass whirl in its sky.

Tidal waves of stone and ash break ceaselessly against its barren and bleeding flesh.

And there, cacophonous above the raining desolation of a world, the "god of the faithless" rises...



...to the sound of thunder.



BROTHER.



STAY DOWN.



I POSSESS
THE POWER OF A
HERALD OF GALACTUS.
AS WELL AS THE
POWERS BEFIT OF
THE ALL-FATHER
OF ASGARD.

ALL
ADDED TO
MY OWN.

IN THE
PAST, YOU AND
I HAVE FOUGHT
AND BEEN
EQUAL.



THIS
WILL NOT
BE THAT.



GO NOW,
PLEASE, DO
NOT MAKE
ME--

I AM GOING
NOWHERE UNTIL
I FREE YOU OF
THIS MADNESS!



VERY
WELL.





DO YOU
SEE?

I AM STILL
ME, BROTHER.
I HAVE **CHOSEN**
THIS PATH.

I AM
SLAVE TO
NO ONE.



NO!

AGH!



YOU THINK
YOURSELF ABOVE
MY CONTROL,
LITTLE GOD?

THE POWER
COSMIC IS MINE
ALONE TO WIELD.
YOU ARE MY HERALD!
I GAVE YOU YOUR
POWER! YOU
BELONG TO--



NOY!!!

I TOOK
YOUR POWER.



YOU TAKE
NOTHING
FROM ME!



HNNGG!!!



I HAVE
AGREED TO
HELP YOU, AND
I WILL HONOR
MY WORD. BUT
BE MINDFUL OF
YOUR TONGUE
IF YOU WISH
TO--

YOUR
WORD?!











BECAUSE
I AM STILL
THOR!



UNF!!!



BILL.
LET IT
GO.

I WILL
TAKE YOUR
ARM WITH
IT IF I
MUST...

BUT THERE
IS NO POWER IN THE
UNIVERSE STRONG
ENOUGH TO STOP MY
HAMMER ONCE CALLED
TO MY HAND.

GRRGHHH!!!



...AND
YET.









WHO...
WOULD
DARE...



I HAVE
WATCHED
MORE THAN
ENOUGH.



IF YOU WISH
TO CONTINUE
THIS INSANITY...
THEN I AM
TRULY SORRY,
THOR...



...THROUGH
IS THE ONLY
WAY.

TO BE CONTINUED!

QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



Hark, traveler! We are the noble ravens of Asgard, boon companions to the God of Thunder, and we welcome you to the gates of the Golden City. Cast your prayers high, and if the gods are smiling, we will carry the word of the king back to you.

Asgard is aflame with talk of the king's departure with Galactus last month. We've already heard from many denizens concerned with Thor's new charge...

Dear Wil, C.B., Donny, Nic, Matthew, Joe, et al.,

I just had to take a quick break from writing my introduction to *Marvel Masterworks: The Fantastic Four Vol. 22* to tell you all how much I enjoyed THOR #1. The magic is certainly back, and watching Thor's journey from the Thunder God Who Would Be King back to once again serving a near-all-powerful being was quite exciting (the more things change, as they say). The work by the entire creative crew on this first issue was first-rate, so I'm really looking forward to the coming battle against Black Winter. A couple of silly thoughts: I couldn't help but wonder how the current incarnation of the MCU's Thor would've reacted to Volstagg's concerns regarding the feasts and ale...other than being surprised that he, or any Asgardian, was still alive. Also, Thor may want to reconsider exactly how all-seeing Lady Sif really is if she missed seeing the frostbitten Galactus hurtling down on Asgard. Again, congrats to all on producing a great comic--can't wait to see what's next!

Jim Salicrup
Editor in Chief, Papercutz

Hi, Mr. D.!

I met you here in Singapore during the SGCC 2019, and I started collecting and reading comics because of SILVER SURFER BLACK. Never read or planned to pick THOR as a book, but I did because it is made by Sir Cates! It is definitely worth a shot with Silver Surfer, Galactus and the other Heralds! This is definitely going to be a MAGICAL

adventure! Thanks again for the magic!

JRA

Every time I see a page of a Donny Cates message to readers, I know it's about to pull my heartstrings. This book TRULY gave me the sense of magic as described. Perhaps readers don't lose the magic the same way creators do, but going through the whiplash of constant reboots and changing creative teams across any and all fandoms we subscribe to grows tiresome the older you get. This book not only got me fired up for the future of comics, it feels like the flames are being mainlined into my bloodstream. Thank you to everyone involved in this book. The art, covers, letters, inks, ALL OF IT is incredible. The True Believers are rejoicing the new year AND the new age of Thor!

Gonzalo

Hi, Marvel!

My son and I are big Thor fans. We were so excited for the new series that it inspired us to theme our newly built Cub Scout Pinewood Derby car in a Thor theme! My son James named the car "Thor, Car of Thunder." By Odin's beard and the power of Thor, our car not only won best in show for its theming, but it also won the Pack Championship for its speed! We are looking forward to the new series and thank the team for their wonderful storytelling and artistry!

Nick & James Dus
Evansville, IN



Dear Marvel,

I read THOR #1, and despite knowing it would be incredible, I was still blown away by just how dope it actually was. At this point, it goes without saying that Donny Cates is currently the living, breathing heart and soul of Marvel Comics. But his love for Thor is so palpable that it bleeds through the entirety of the first issue and soaks my gut with enthusiasm. I can't wait for THOR #2! Theories already buzz around my head: Does the Black Winter have anything to do with Knull? What will Thor see when he looks into the Frost? Who knows. But one thing is certain: I'm buying the hell out of the next issue. Thank you for telling such exciting stories.

Sincerely,
Carlos Escobosa

Marvel has done it again! THOR #1 was a great read. The beautiful intro pages of Mjolnir screaming across the realms misdirected the reader as to the darkness coming. The humor of the Sharpie message made me laugh out loud. We saw a rebuilt Asgard. As much as we hate change in our characters, we saw progression with Thor taking over the throne and Sif as guardian of the Bifrost. Then there was the verbal dueling between Thor and Loki, which when done right (and it was) never gets old. Plus, Loki notices something amiss. But the highlight of the story for me

is Galactus crashing to Asgard, weak and decrepit. This was very shocking considering he is the most ancient being of our universe. And the ending...well, when I saw promos for Thor's new look, I wasn't ecstatic. However, now in the context of the story, I love it!

That last bit leads into what I loved about this book the most. Mr. Cates' message at the end was an honest peek "behind the curtain" about his role in the industry. But as a "veteran" reader, his comments resonated within me similarly as well. Marvel has a history of telling groundbreaking and socially relevant stories. Marvel was always best at this and often did it softly, letting the message sink in, just like *Star Trek* did in the '60s. I have lost that magic as a reader too. Our society is more polarized as well. We've forgotten how to talk to each other...how to disagree with each other. It's okay to disagree. But we let ONE item of disagreement divide us.

Anyhow, for me, the magic is back. Thanks to recent X stories (HoX/PoX were amazing), DOCTOR DOOM, new *Star Wars* titles and now THOR, walking into my comic shop on Wednesdays is magical again. I almost feel the excitement I did in the '80s as a kid when three monthly titles would show up in my mailbox wrapped in brown paper. Thank you for giving me that feeling, Marvel.

And finally, this book had a "Stan's Soapbox" that is very germane to what I wrote/felt. I probably read that Soapbox back in 1980 too. Keep the flame burning!

Jim Schlievert

Just finished THOR #1 by Donny Cates and was blown away! I can't wait to see where he takes his cosmic epic next! From THANOS and COSMIC GHOST RIDER to Knull and SILVER SURFER BLACK with some GUARDIANS in between, it's been fantastic! And now with Nic Klein and Matthew Wilson on art this book is a sure home run to be talked about years from now. RISE, HERALD OF THUNDER!!! EPIC!!!

Sincerely,
John L. Loen

Dear Donny and the entire creative team of THOR:

A couple decades ago, I made it a point to submit letters to Marvel on a somewhat regular basis, ending

up with two or three published, along with a coveted "No-Prize." But for various reasons I turned my back on comic books, and when I came back to this hobby that has enriched so many lives, I wanted to be a small part of it, so I started a weekly blog and have my own little readership. But life gets busy, so along with my blog, I've submitted maybe two letters (one did get published) over the last few years. And here I am writing again, and you know who's to blame? Donny Cates. You see, I've just finished reading THOR #1 (which is headlining my next blog episode), and his one-page note about losing something when you write comics for a living really resonated with me. Why? Well, the answer is twofold: One, I'm currently editing a graphic novella series for an independent creator, so I'm looking at these stories with a different perspective

the creative process and what goes on "behind the scenes." But just like Donny tells us in the back of this fantastic first issue, sometimes the magic is still there, and by golly, the entire creative team of THOR is worthy!

Sincerely,
Ed Gosney

In answer to all that, we say:
CAW!

That's "thank you," dear flightless ones. And also "goodbye," for we're out of time and space this month. Join us next time for the highlights of our lord Thor's god-on-god-on-cosmic-being brawl — we have a feeling it'll be one for the ages!

NEXT MONTH: THOR VS. SIF!



